

## CHRONICLE

### AMBRUS ÁBRAHÁM Centennial

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the neurologist Professor AMBRUS ÁBRAHÁM a one day celebration was organized jointly by József Attila University and the Department of Biological Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. On this occasion, the Rector of the University announced the results of the AMBRUS ÁBRAHÁM Neurohistological Competition for Students.

The following prizes were awarded:

1st Prize: ÁRPÁD PÁLFI, ELŐD KÖRTVÉLY, KRISZTINA KOVÁCS (Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University): Acetylcholinesterase lesions by monoclonal antibodies in the rat brain (a possible model for the cholinergic hypofunction).

2nd Prize: ÁKOS KULIN (Debrecen Medical University): Visualization of the capsaicin-sensitive dorsal root ganglionic cells and their central terminals in rat.

3rd Prize: MONIKA TARCSA (Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University): Studies of the role(s) of amyloid in tissue cultures.

4th Prize: ILDIKÓ SCHMIDT (Debrecen Medical University): The structure of the frog nucleus hypoglossus.

The winners presented their works on November 19, 1993. Following the lectures, the Rector of the University and the president of the Department of Biological Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences unveiled the memorial tablet to AMBRUS ÁBRAHÁM (a work by the sculpture SÁNDOR TÓTH) on the wall of the building in which Professor ÁBRAHÁM had worked for decades.

After the exhibition relating to the life of Professor ÁBRAHÁM was opened in the central building of the University, a scientific session was held to honour his scientific achievements. The following lectures were presented:

1) TIBOR FARKAS (Biological Research Center, Szeged): Remembering Professor AMBRUS ÁBRAHÁM.

2) MÁRIA CSOKNYA, ISTVÁN LENGVÁRI, LÁSZLÓ HIRIPI, KÁROLY ELEKES, MÁRTA SZEILER, JÓZSEF HÁMORI (Jannus Pannonius University, Pécs, Balaton Limnological Institute, Tihany): Changes in serotonin content during regeneration of the nervous system of *Lumbricus terrestris* L.

3) SÁNDOR BENDE, SR., SÁNDOR BENDE, JR. (Loránd Eötvös University, Budapest, Semmelweis Hospital, Miskolc): Effects of ultrastructural damage and experimental endotoxin shock in the exocrine acini of the pancreas.

4) JÓZSEF SERFŐZŐ (Kossuth Lajos University): Effects of the accumulation of xenobiotics in *Astacus leptodactylus* ESCHZ.

5) IMRE ROJIK, SÁNDOR HUSZTA, OTTÓ FEHÉR (József Attila University): Neuralgin as an early gene product.

After the scientific program, commemorative plaques were awarded to Professors SÁNDOR BENDE, SR., EMIL MINKER and JÓZSEF HÁMORI, former students of Professor ÁBRAHÁM.

The Hungarian Post Office issued a commemorative stamp for this occasion, and an autobiography of Professor ÁBRAHÁM entitled "Szálfaember" was published on this day.

The "Áron Márton" Secondary School in Csíkszereda (now in Transylvania, Romania), the former school of Professor ÁBRAHÁM, also organized a memorial day in honour of the famous scientist, and a memorial tablet was unveiled on May 6, 1994. Our University was represented by Professors GYULA FARKAS, GÉZA TURY and LÁSZLÓ KOVÁCS.

### **Third Hungarian Congress of Ecology**

The third Hungarian Congress of Ecology, organized by the Ecological Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, The Ecological Section of the Hungarian Biological Society and the Department of Ecology, JATE University, Szeged, was held in Szeged on July 3-6, 1994.

The Congress consisted of eleven sections: Ecology of Plant Communities, Population Biology, Population Interactions and Behavioral Ecology, Hydrobiology, Applied and Agricultural Ecology, Nature Conservation, Theoretical Ecology and Modelling, Ecology of Animal Communities, Soil Ecology, Ecophysiology, and Ornithology. The opening plenary lecture, entitled "100 years of Hungarian Vegetation Research", was given by GÁBOR FEKETE. Altogether 300 people attended the Congress and 192 papers (talks and posters) were presented. Besides the sessions of the invited and contributed papers, Szeged, as a centre of Hungarian molecular biology research, gave an excellent opportunity to organize an informal talk with molecular biologists. Another evening program was a meeting between professional and NGO nature conservationists and ecologists.

A declaration was accepted by the plenary session in the interest of the protection of ecology against "pseudo-ecology", on the relation between the nature conservation authorities and the ecological sciences and on the necessity for the introduction of an ecologically based biomonitoring program and network in Hungary.

Besides the scientific program, the social events of the Congress were also successful, especially the get-together party, where we could enjoy the Szeged Oldtimers, a dixieland band led by an eminent ornithologist. The Congress ended with excursion to the Pusztaszert Protected Landscape area and along the River Tisza, by riverboat.

The Third Hungarian Congress was sponsored by the Hungarian Office of Nature Conservation, the Lower Tisza Regional Directorate of Water Management, the Independent Ecological Center, The Szegedért Fund and JATE University.

### Awards

On 9 September 1994, the Council of JATE University conferred the title of honorary doctor on Prof. CHARLES SUSANNE, Head of Laboratory of Anthropogenetics and Ecotechnique, Vrije University, Brussels.

Prof. LAJOS FERENCZY, Corresponding Member of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Head of the Department of Microbiology, JATE University, was awarded the Albert Szent-Györgyi Prize in acknowledgement of his scientific, scientific-organizational and lecturing work.

The council of JATE University awarded the LAJOS BARTUCZ Plaque to Dr. OTTÓ TROGMAYER, General Director of the Móra Ferenc Museum, Szeged, Head of the Department of Archeology, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

The council of JATE University honoured Prof. PÁL LIPTÁK, Head of the Department of Anthropology between 1960 and 1980, with the title of Professor Emeritus.

### Teaching on Human Biology

A course supported by TEMPUS was held in the Móra Ferenc Museum of Szeged (Hungary) on the "Teaching on Human Biology" (24-25 June, 1994). The course was organized by Prof. CHARLES SUSANNE from the Laboratory of Anthropogenetics and Ecotechnique, Vrije University Brussel, and Prof. GYULA L. FARKAS and his staff from the Department of Anthropology of József Attila University, Szeged. The lectures delivered at the program were as follows:

C. SUSANNE (Brussels): Human evolution and population genetics.

R. HAUSPIE (Brussels): Human growth modelling.

M. BUDAI and G.S. KOCSIS (Szeged): Anatomic characteristics of patients with cleft lip and palate over 3-year period.

C. PRADO (Madrid): Anthropology of Woman.

C. SUSANNE (Brussels): Nutritional aspects of growth and development.

K. CSETE, A. LÁSZLÓ, F. KÓSA, Á. VÁRKONYI and J. SZABÓ (Szeged): Untersuchung des  $\alpha$ 1-Antitrypsin(Pi) beim Neugeborenen.

GY.L. FARKAS - Zs. JUST (Szeged): Methodological notes on two cross-sectional growth studies.

C. PRADO (Madrid): Body constitution and practical applications.

B. HULANICKA (Wroclaw): Growth of children in polluted areas.

F. KÓSA (Szeged): Racial differences on the skulls of white and black human newborns.

T. SZABÓ and K. NYILAS (Nyíregyháza): Growth and development of mentally deficient children.



GY.L. FARKAS (Szeged): Influence of different factors on the age of menarche.

Participants on this course also had the opportunity to visit the Móra Ferenc Museum of Szeged and the Ópusztaszer National Memorial Park.

### **Habilitation proceedings**

Since 1994, habilitation diplomas (*decretum habilitationis*) are awarded to lecturers and researchers at József Attila University who meet the prescribed requirements. Those habilitated may bear the title habilitated doctor, abbreviated as Dr.Habil.

The University Council may award the title of University honorary lecturer to those not employed at a University if they so desire.

Habilitation may be applied for by staff who have carried out at least 5 years of prominent and creative scientific work after receiving the Candidate degree or Ph.D. or the Academic Doctor degree.

Following successful habilitation, appointment as university professor may be applied for. On 27 April 1994, two application lectures for habilitation were presented at the Biological Section of Faculty of Natural Sciences:

Dr. JÁNOS NEMCSÓK (Department of Biochemistry, JATE University): Biochemical characterization of the cholinerg system.

Dr. GÁSPÁR BÁNFALVI (Chemical-Biochemical Institute, Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest): The demonstration of structure organization of macromolecules by using models.

On 2 June, both J. NEMCSÓK and G. BÁNFALVI and those who were earlier appointed university professor (A. BARANYI, GY. FARKAS, O. FEHÉR, L. FERENCZY, F. ZSOLDOS) received their habilitation diploma from the Rector of J.A.University.

### **Appointments**

Prof. A. BARANYI has been appointed Head of the Department of Comparative Physiology, and also elected chairman of the Biological Section in the Faculty of Natural Sciences.